



# Thomas Russell Infants' School

'Our children blossom through nurture and challenge'

Newsletter number 16 - 10 January 2020

## Welcome back!

We hope you all had an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas and New Year. In school, we have started the new term with a week focusing on 'Happy, Healthy Children', and you can read more about the week's events overleaf. Well-being is going to be a theme throughout school activities

this term. On the first day back, instead of plunging straight into lessons, each class held a 'circle session' where the children had the chance to share some of their favourite experiences from the holiday. It was lovely—and enlightening—to hear so many children pick things like "playing football at Rosliston" and "walking round the marina with my family", rather than focusing on presents they had received. It shows that simple activities with family and friends are really important to the children and creates fantastic, positive memories for them. Let's hope this year brings lots more!



## Term dates

6-17 April 2020 inclusive—Easter  
8 May — Early May Bank Holiday (remember that this falls on a Friday this year)  
25-29 May inclusive —Half-term  
3 July—Inset day  
20 July-1 Sept inclusive —summer holiday  
23 October—Inset day  
26—30 Oct inclusive—Half-term  
21 Dec —3 Jan inclusive—Christmas  
4 Jan 2021—Inset day  
15-19 February 2021 inclusive—Half-term  
2-16 April 2021 inclusive—Easter  
3 May 2021—Early May Bank Holiday  
28 May- 6th June—Half term  
7 June 2021—Inset day  
21 July 2021—last day of school

## Dates for your Diary

Wed 15 Jan	Reception to Sealife Centre
Mon 20 Jan	Parent consultations
Wed 22 Jan	Family Workshop RM 2.15
Thu 23 Jan	Family Workshop RR 2.15
Mon 27 Jan	Family Workshop 2M 2.15
Tue 28 Jan	Family Workshop 2W 2.15
Wed 29 Jan	Family Workshop 1P 2.15
Thu 30 Jan	Parent consultations
Fri 31 Jan	Family Workshop 1F 2.15
Mon 3 Feb	Reception meeting 6-7pm
Thu 13 Feb	Break up for half-term
Fri 14 Feb	School closed to pupils (Inset day)
Mon 24 Feb	Back to school

### Parent governor vacancy

Governors play a vital role in school life, acting as a 'critical friend' in the management of our school, supporting the work of the staff and being a voice for parents. We have a vacancy for a parent governor, so if you are interested please drop into the school office or email us to get a nomination form. We would be particularly keen to hear from you if you have experience of safeguarding, either in a professional or voluntary role, as a current parent governor with that expertise is going to be leaving soon. You would be expected to attend 6-8 evening meetings per academic year and ideally be able to dedicate some time on a regular basis to come in during the school day. If you would like an informal chat about the role, please catch one of the Co-heads on the gate in the morning, or give us a ring.

**The deadline for nominations is Friday 24 January.** If we receive more than one nomination, a ballot will be held, where all parents and carers will have the opportunity to vote.

### Afternoon tea is served!

As part of Happy Healthy Children Week, all the pupils had the chance to invite a family member into school this week to share a drink and a biscuit. This was to encourage and highlight the importance of both 'giving' and 'connecting', so the sessions involved the children sharing biscuits they had decorated and a drink with a guest and taking the chance to chat and 'connect'. Thank you to everyone who found time to attend—we do recognise that there have been quite a few invitations to school events recently and for working parents this can be difficult to accommodate. The turn-out was fantastic for each year group, as you can see from the photo. We do really appreciate, as always, your commitment to being part of our school community!



### Possible winter school closures

As a village school we aim whenever possible to remain open during bad weather, as many of our school community are able to walk to school. There will undoubtedly be times though when even this is not possible so when severe weather is forecast we will communicate with parents to clarify the situation either way in the following ways:

- a notice will be posted on the home page of the school website
- information will be tweeted from the school twitter account @trisschool
- if school is closing to the children a text will be sent to the parent who receives school text messages.

There may also be occasions where school has to request that children are collected earlier than the usual finish time due to adverse weather conditions. Again, this will always be avoided wherever possible.

### Visit to Barton Mews

Mrs Burton, Mrs Warner and six of our Year 2 children took a trip to Barton Mews Extra Care housing this week to share an art and craft session with some of the residents. Everyone who took part really enjoyed the visit and there was much chatting and sharing between the generations! This was part of our 'Happy Healthy Children' activities.



### Flu vaccines

We have had the following message from the School Nurse team:

Should your child still be outstanding their flu vaccine the School Age Immunisation Team will be holding the following Flu clinics:

- Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Ryecroft Health Centre ST5 2BQ – Morning Session Only
- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Rising Brook Health Centre ST17 9LY – All Day Session
- Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020 – Tamworth Health Centre B79 7EA – All Day Session

If you do wish to book an appointment please ring the team on 0300 124 0366 accordingly.

### Borrow a book!

Don't forget the Book Nook is now up and running—take a moment on the way in or out of school to have a quick browse and pick a title you fancy!

### Reception Meeting for Parents

On Monday 3rd February 6-7 pm we are inviting Reception parents to join us to learn more about 'Tapestry' - our online system for recording our children's development. We would like to share ways in which you can support this and also pick up on a few other aspects of the Early Years curriculum where further information has been requested by parents.

Over this week we have focused on the five areas for great well-being: we have connected with others; learnt new things; taken notice of what is around us; been active; and helped others by giving. Everybody has worked together to make the week so fantastic—it has been a great start to the year!

*The Wellbeing Team*



Wishing you all an enjoyable weekend.

Best wishes

*Mrs S Burton and Mrs L Farmer*